

## Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 05663 172357Z

73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 RSC-01 COME-00

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /216 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2093

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS USUN 5663

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR AORG UNGA DA FAO

SUBJ: 28TH GA: ITEM 105, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. PLENARY APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE DECEMBER 17 REPORTS  
OF SECOND AND FIFTH COMMITTEES ON ITEM 105, WFC.  
AFTER ADOPTION, AMBASSADOR BENNETT DELIVERED STATEMENT,  
AND ITALIAN AND ALGERIAN REPS MADE BRIEF INTERVENTIONS.

2. ALGERIAN REP SAID THAT ALL UN ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD  
BE INVOLVED IN CONFERENCE WITH FAO AND UNCTAD HAVING  
CARDINAL ROLE. HE FAVORED WIDEST POSSIBLE  
PARTICIPATION IN WFC AND URGED THAT CONFERENCE  
EMBRACE BROADER DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF QUESTION.

3. AMBASSADOR BENNETT REMARKS QUOTED BELOW:

QUOTE

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

I WISH TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVT  
FOR THE COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 05663 172357Z

TIME AND THEIR IDEAS TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WORLD FOOD  
CONFERENCE. IT IS A CREDIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM THAT  
IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE THIS MATTER WAS PROPOSED IN THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LATE SEPTEMBER, IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND

APPROVED BY THE 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FAO, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, THE SECOND COMMITTEE, AND NOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MY GOVERNMENT TAKES SATISFACTION IN EVENTS LEADING TO PASSAGE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONVENING OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. SECRETARY KISSINGER CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESSING NATURE OF THE PROBLEM IN HIS SPEECH TO THE GA ON SEPT 24 WHEN HE SAID:

"THE GROWING THREAT TO THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY DESERVES THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THIS ASSEMBLY. SINCE 1969, GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF CEREALS HAS RISEN MORE RAPIDLY THAN PRODUCTION: STOCKS ARE AT THE LOWEST LEVELS IN YEARS. WE NOW FACE THE PROSPECT THAT -- EVEN WITH BUMPER CROPS -- THE WORLD MAY NOT REBUILD ITS SERIOUSLY DEPLETED RESERVES IN THIS DECADE."

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY ASSIST THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE, AS WE AND MANY OTHER DELEGATES HERE HAVE NOTED, WOULD BE TO EXPLORE MEANS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE FACE OF RISING WORLD DEMAND, AND TO PREVENT HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION RESULTING FROM NATIONAL DISASTERS. THE CONFERENCE WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE ALL GOVTS IN THIS EFFORT.

THE UNITED STATES' PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS JUST NOW BEGINNING.

WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE COMPLEMENTARY. QUESTIONS OF TRADE, AND OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR FOOD ARE HIGHLY INTERRELATED. ON THE ONE HAND WE HOPE TO SEE THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS REACHING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS BY COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH ALL THE FACTORS THAT UNDERLIE TRADE DISTORTIONS AND TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SPECIFICALLY. WE SEE THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT AS A NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, BUT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARRIVING AT GENERALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD WHICH CAN FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER INT'L FORA.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 05663 172357Z

TURNING TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOOD CONFERENCE, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF FACTORS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE FOOD SITUATION. IN OUR VIEW THIS REVIEW SHOULD INCLUDE ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK, THE PROJECTED PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IMPROVING THEIR FOOD PRODUCTION, BOTH FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND FOR EXPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WILL PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING BY THE INT'L COMMUNITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT

INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT IF WE ARE TO ASSURE LONG TERM WORLD FOOD SECURITY. INCREASING THIS FOOD PRODUCTION, AS MANY DELEGATES HAVE POINTED OUT, INVOLVES A VAST RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES, ISSUES THAT OFTEN TRANSCEND THE STRICTLY AGRICULTURAL FIELD. A SINGLE CONFERENCE COULD NOT POSSIBLY REACH USEFUL DECISIONS ON ALL THESE QUESTIONS, AND IT MIGHT REACH NONE AT ALL, IF IT TRIED. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MUST CONCENTRATE ON A FEW KEY ISSUES, WHERE IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS QUICKLY.

FOR EXAMPLE, ONE MEANS OF INCREASING FOOD AVAILABILITIES WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS TO BETTER PREVENT THE LARGE CROP LOSSES WHICH REGULARLY OCCUR AS A RESULT OF PESTS, PLANT DISEASES, AND INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES.

ANOTHER MEASURE, ON WHICH WORK IS ALREADY BEING DONE, IS THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STOCKS OF FOOD, TO ENABLE THE WORLD TO COPE EFFECTIVELY WITH SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION, AND SURGES IN DEMAND. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MAY WISH TO BUILD UPON THE WORK OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION IN THIS FIELD BY DEVELOPING A SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STOCKS. IN THIS CONNECTION,

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 05663 172357Z

ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE PAID TO THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENTLY HELD COMMERCIAL STOCKS AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF WORLD FOOD RESERVES.

IN ADDITION TO FOOD RESERVES, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT FOOD AID AND DISASTER RELIEF ARE AREAS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. GUIDELINES FOR BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT NATIONS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT THAT WILL ENSURE THAT FOOD AID IS USED AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, BOTH TO MEET DISASTER RELIEF NEEDS AND ALSO TO ENSURE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE GOAL OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR ALL THE WORLD'S PEOPLE, A GOAL WHICH AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID ON SEPTEMBER 24, IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, AND A PREREQUISITE, FOR THE SORT OF WORLD COMMUNITY WE ARE ALL SEEKING, UNQTE.

BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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